

News



**3ID on patrol...**  
3ID continues to patrol the streets and provide security in Baghdad. See story on Page 4A.



**Month of the Child...**  
Stewart unites behind the children. See story on Page 5B.

Post Update

**Remembrance...**  
There will be a Days of Remembrance Observance Apr. 27, 1:30 - 3 p.m. in the Fort Stewart education Center. The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Robert L. Walkoff.

**Keep Liberty clean...**  
There will be a massive clean-up in conjunction with Earth Day Apr. 23 by Keep Liberty County beautiful. It is your chance to recycle tires and old computer/electronic parts. There is no charge to dispose of tires.  
For more information, call Carla Goodwin at 767-8880.

**Car service...**  
MWR's Stewart and Hunter Auto Craft Centers offer free assistance to family members of deployed Soldiers. They will inspect brake shoes, pads, hubs, discs, lines and fluids.  
Inspections are every Sunday in April 10 a.m. - Noon. To make an appointment, call 767-3521 at Stewart and 352-6244 at Hunter AAF.

**Field Day...**  
ACS is sponsoring a Field Day as part of their Child Abuse Prevention Month activities Apr. 29, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the ACS parking lot.  
There will be activities and refreshments and everything is free. For more information, call 352-5343

**Job opportunities...**  
Human Resources is looking to fill positions for a Child & Youth Program Assistant, Recreation Aid, Desk Clerk, Cashier, Operations Assistant, Lifeguard, Custodial Worker, Laborer, Cook and Waiter/Waitress.  
For more information, call 767-5051.

**Alarm test...**  
There will be a test of the Whelen alert siren Apr. 26 at noon. The siren is used to alert the public in the event of severe weather. For more information, call 767-8666.

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Iraqi military bomb disposal unit saves lives

**Spec. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
*1st BCT PAO*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The Iraqi army's 30th Brigade bomb company is working hard to make the streets of Tikrit and other cities safer for the citizens of Iraq.  
Starting with a handful of Iraqi soldiers, the unit has now grown into a company of six officers and 86 soldiers, Brig. Gen. Abdul Jabar Salin Kebiaa, commander, 30th Bde said.  
The bomb company has already proved itself worthwhile during the elections, Jabar said.  
"In spite of the small size of the

company, they undertook a big operation during the election," Jabar said. "The election was successful with the company protecting the polling center."  
The election was one the unit's many successes since its activation Jan. 1, Maj. Abdul Gadir Qais said.  
"Our company has finished so many duties in the short time since its establishment," he said. "It has achieved six perfect training stages in cooperation with friendly forces. Over 100 bomb and (improvised explosive devices) have been cleared and more than a thousand meters of road has been protected

and fenced."  
Coalition Forces leaders, who work with the Iraqi Army, see progress and growth in the future, and are confident in the IA's abilities to run the show.  
"These guys are doing a great job," Maj. Kelly Donna, 3d ID's 1st Brigade Combat Team, military transition team officer-in-charge said.  
"We see progress everyday, and they are great guys to work with. I would feel comfortable staying out here with these guys," she said.  
Iraqi army leaders see much growth in the future too, Qias said.

The growth of the bomb company was capped off when a new headquarters building was dedicated in Tikrit, Apr. 10.  
With the growing size of the company, it desperately needed a headquarters from which it could more efficiently run its operation, said Maj. Qais, the bomb company commander.  
"This center (headquarters) will enable the personnel of our company to do their duties under the supervision of the engineering units of the Coalition Forces," Qais said.  
"We are preparing more headquarters in Tikrit, Bayji, Samarra,

Balad, Ad Dawr and Ad Dhuluiyah," he said.  
Qais said he feels his company is doing well because it's beginning to draw attention from anti-Iraqi forces.  
"Our company is a big target for the terrorists," Qais said. "We know this because so many officers and soldiers have been wounded and many of our vehicles destroyed."  
Jabar said he hopes for continued support from Coalition Forces to enable further growth of his forces.  
"This is the only way we can guarantee the continued safety and stability of the Iraqi people," he added.

TFB Soldiers honor comrade

**Pfc. Dan Balda**  
*4th BCT PAO*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq** — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers paid tribute to a fallen comrade at a memorial service here Apr. 9.  
Cpl. Glenn Watkins, A Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, was killed in action Apr. 5 when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.  
At the service, Lt. Col. Patrick Frey, 1/184 Bn. Commander, spoke about Watkins' children. One of his sons is serving with the 82nd Airborne Division, another son just joined the Navy and his daughter is a member of the Israeli Civil Defense Forces.  
"His children go out into life armed with the best examples in life that American culture has to offer," Frey said.  
"He was a quiet man, but we remember him for his humor. He was Jewish, but he loved Christian rock and roll. He was a Soldier, but he was no warmonger. His leadership, bearing and sacrifice served as the perfect model for every Soldier here," he said.  
Watkins' company commander shared his last conversation with the man who was remembered for his smile.  
"The last time I saw him was the evening of Apr. 4, when he was getting water for his patrol," said Capt. Keith Haviland. "I asked him how he was doing. He replied, 'I am doing great, sir.' No sarcasm, no facetiousness. It was just 100 percent genuine. This is the way I will always remember him, a "Cool Hand Luke' smile and a passion for the brothers he served."  
Staff Sgt. Steve Nunez knew Watkins since 1998 when he first served with 1/184 and was his squad leader this time around. Watkins signed on to stay in Iraq another year to fight with his old friends in the unit.



Pfc. Dan Balda

**A Soldier assigned to 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, bows his head during prayer at Cpl. Glenn Watkins' memorial service.**

"Us old timers were glad to have him back. He always got the job done, asking for nothing in return except a cup of coffee," Nunez said.  
"I'll miss you bro, see you when I get home," he said.  
Cpl. Ricardo Briquela, one of Watkins' best friends in the unit said Watkins put his life on the line everyday because he knew it was the right thing to do. He then read a letter Watkins wrote in case he didn't make it home safely:  
"Please do not despair nor grieve for me. Be proud and talk highly of me for I have done what I was called to do. As a young boy watching "The Green Berets' with John Wayne, I knew a life in the military was my life and possibly my death. I feared not the unknown and so I set forth on this journey knowing full well what it might mean. I must go for now, stand firm and take up this fight."  
"Oh yes, I intend to fight hard for I have reason to come home. If you are reading this then you know I have failed at my task. Only life threw me a curve, a man seldom has a choice in the manner of his death. It is only the manner in which he lives that is a mark of a true warrior," Briquela said.



File Photo

**An undated picture of Cpl. Glenn Watkins.**



File Photo

Job opportunity...

**Iraqi Police and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers take down names of the hundreds of Iraqis applying for a job with the Iraqi Police. At least 1,400 Iraqi citizens showed up at Camp Rustamiyah to apply for 160 police positions. The potential police officers began lining up before 7 a.m. Only 400 of the citizen-patriots who showed up were able to be tested. Those who did not get selected were asked to talk to their local IP stations for the next opportunity to apply.**

War zone medical necessity increases training tempo for Iraqis

Doctors, medics learn battlefield med techniques

**Spec. Erin Robicheaux**  
*256th BDE Public Affairs*

**CAMP JUSTICE, Iraq** — Soldiers of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade received training on basic first aid, sexually transmitted diseases, and personal field hygiene, making them even more prepared to handle medical emergencies in a war zone.  
"The purpose is to increase education of the Iraqi Army medical sections, and to clarify the existing knowledge," said Lt. Col. Fuoud, 1st IA Bde. Surgeon.  
He said the Iraqi medical personnel are well-educated, but most have only hospital experience.  
His vision is for them to be proficient medically on the battlefield. He hopes to improve on the training program, with the help of the U.S. Army.  
**See Medical** \_\_\_\_\_ **Page 15A**

**A second lieutenant in the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade takes the hands-on portion of her first-aid exam. Soldiers of the brigade participated in a course to polish their medical skills, in order to make them more effective medics on the battlefield.**



Spec. Erin Robicheaux

3ID Soldiers prevent insurgent attack

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A timely tip from a local citizen and the quick actions of Task Force Baghdad Soldiers saved the lives of Multi-National Forces and Iraqi civilians when three improvised explosive devices were disabled before they exploded.  
An Iraqi local national in a neighborhood northwest of Baghdad told Soldiers about a round inside a concrete block with wires coming out of it. The Soldiers secured the site and contacted an explosives ordnance disposal team. The explosives team found two 152-millimeter rounds and safely detonated them.  
In another part of the city, an Iraqi Police patrol found a possible IED in a black bag on a highway. An explosives team safely detonated the bag.  
A Task Force Baghdad patrol struck an IED while on patrol in west Baghdad. Soldiers responded to the attack by searching a nearby housing complex and cemetery. In one of the

houses, the Soldiers found several hollowed-out concrete blocks used to hide IEDs. A local national was detained for questioning.  
Other Soldiers on patrol in west Baghdad had a rocket-propelled grenade fired at them. The unit reacted to the attack by searching a house in the area where the round was fired. The Soldiers found two improvised rocket launchers, wire, a pager and a garage door opener.  
Iraqi citizens can report suspicious behavior by via email and telephone hotlines, and Army officials say those efforts are beginning to pay off.  
"I think more and more people are starting to see the value of the anonymous TIP hotline," said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "Iraqi citizens are stepping forward to tell us about terrorist activity in their neighborhoods and now they're starting to see tangible results like this, where lives are saved by the information they provide."



# VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

## Guess what I heard... rumors

Lt. Col. Robert Whetstone  
31D Public Affairs

Some thirty-two years ago I remember sitting in elementary school watching my teacher conduct a very simple experiment. He leaned forward and whispered a message to the first student in the classroom and asked her to tell the next student until everyone in class shared in this exciting little test. By the time the last student repeated the message aloud, it was so twisted and distorted that the original intent was "Lost in Translation."

Even now as an adult I still experience "whoppers" being formed from a microscopic rumor until it becomes an urban legend. What makes us so hungry for information that we can take a seemingly innocent piece of data and transform it into mythological proportions?

Everyone likes to communicate in some form or fashion. Communicating effectively is an art that is learned through experience. Although sometimes painful, it is always useful. It takes great patience and a willingness to study situations thoroughly before we share information grounded in truth.

Sharing rumors and gossip are not effective ways to communicate. In fact, rumors and gossip are the beginning of pain, strife, confusion and broken friendships. They are rooted in manipulation, deceit, and double messages (saying one thing and doing another).

When the conversation begins with "guess what I heard," or "did you know that..." maybe it shouldn't be listened to or even repeated. During a time when we should be more security conscience and supportive of our deployed Soldiers, spreading rumors and gossip will only distract them from their mission and may create a situation where someone will get injured, or worse.

Deployments are stressful for Soldiers, spouses, children and the rear detachment command team. Each deployment brings hardships that are compounded when rumors and gossip are accepted as truth.

Folks will guess and report on the duration of the deployment, the amount of pay Soldiers receive while deployed, to the amount of environmental leave a

Soldier is entitled to. This stress heightens our senses to night-time noises and abnormalities in our neighborhoods (this is a good thing). But, is also causes some to speculate or accept first reports without investigating completely before adding fuel to a flame that doesn't need to be lit. We all must be vigilant, responsive and responsible. You should report oddities to the military police and your chain of command.

Prior to 31D moving out to Iraq, many leaders offered some very sound advice. "If you hear something that causes concern, or you are unsure if it's true, ask your rear detachment or garrison chain of command." This involves trust that can only be built if it is exercised.

Commanders will acknowledge the appearance of foot dragging when responding to concerns. Just remember that doing our homework and double-checking information takes time and often requires commanders to call places overseas to get the real "skinny" on an issue. Just like in the classroom test, when more folks hear and repeat information, it increases the chance it will be distorted or untrue data.

As adults we learn from life's little lessons and are far removed from elementary school, but for some strange reason, we still practice the art of rumor spreading and gossip. The writer has been guilty in the past...but is improving with age!

### The straight of it...

The MARNE Information Forum is a monthly avenue for information sharing that provides families an update about the current deployment and an opportunity to ask questions of the Rear Detachment commander.

The next Fort Stewart MIF will be at 7 p.m., Apr. 27, at Club Stewart.

The next Hunter Army Airfield MIF will be at 7 p.m., Apr. 28 at the ACS building.

## Why I Serve — Soldier contributes to GWOT

Kathleen T. Rhem  
Amer. Forces Press Service

**NS GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba** — Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Bowe and his wife, Sgt. Brandy Bowe, spent their "honeymoon" on a Caribbean island. There was plenty of sun and stunning views of crystal-clear, blue-tinted waters.

He's upbeat about the future too. He's requested to extend for an additional year. Brandy has been working to secure a job with a civilian contractor on the island, and the couple hopes she will rejoin him here soon.

In the longer term, Kevin said he hopes someday to work with the FBI or the Drug Enforcement Administration. He said it's important that he remain in public service. "I have a history in my family (of working in public service)," he said. "So I think it's sort of a learned behavior -- giving back to society, because I've really been fortunate."

Like many people, Kevin Bowe has lived through hard times and misfortune -- the death of his friend on 9/11 and shortly thereafter the death of his beloved stepmother took a hard toll -- he just prefers always to look for the positive

and not dwell on the negative. "Some people have sad stories; I have sad stories. But I'm triumphing over them," he said. "Nothing's a handout in life. It's all about what you make in it."

He also has a long list of people he's grateful to, starting with his parents.

Second on his list are "people that instilled military values in me when I first came in." He said he owes much of his success to the senior soldiers who showed him the ropes as a young troop.

And more than anyone else, Kevin said he is grateful to his wife, particularly for volunteering to extend at Guantanamo Bay to spend time with him.

"This isn't an easy duty station for most people," he said. "So I'm just fortunate that I have a wife that's in the military and also supportive and made the sacrifices for her country and also for me," he said.

Kevin, who is responsible for the tools in his unit's motor pool, and Brandy, a military police officer, were married in December 2003, while she was home on leave from her unit's deployment here. Kevin soon found out his unit, the 783rd Military Police



Kathleen T. Rhem

**Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Bowe shows off photos of his family mounted on the toolbox at his desk in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.**

Battalion would soon replace his wife's unit, the 384th MP Battalion.

She volunteered to spend an extra six months here, and the two were allowed to reside together for the final four months of that period before she redeployed.

Kevin said he strongly believes he's making a contribution to the war on terrorism in his role at Guantanamo Bay. That's very important to

him for an intensely personal reason — Kevin lost a dear friend in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. "I've been affected by terrorism," he said, referring to his friend who died and to his roots in New York.

"I like what I'm doing, which is providing support for Operation Enduring Freedom here. The overall mission here is dealing with terrorism," he said.

## Marne Voices

The **Frontline**

Readers respond to the question:

**Earth Day is this week. How do you protect the environment?**

**I have a Volvo, and it gets great gas mileage. I normally ask for paper grocery bags, and we recycle our newspapers.**

Peggy Camp, US Coast Guard (retired).



**I use cloth diapers instead of disposable ones. It's also cheaper, and I never run out to the store to buy more.**

Sgt Patrick Fergusun Mortarman, D Co. 1-39 Field Artillery



**I live in Midway, so we drive our trash to the dump, and sort the recyclables into bins. I also try not to use chemicals that hurt the environment.**

Sgt. 1st Class Monitta Alvin Human Resources NCO 6/8 Cavalry



**I recycle cardboard and paper at the dump. I'm also trained to handle hazardous materials properly so they don't damage the environment.**

Sgt. Terrence Williams Unit Movement Officer, HHC 48th Bde. GNG

**I work with kids before and after school at Taylor's Creek Elementary School. I try to teach them to be responsible, and throw out their trash in the garbage bins.**

Chris Crowell Military Family Member



**We reuse a lot of things for art supplies and we reuse a lot of cans and stuff for school projects.**

Padgett Whitaker and Staff Sgt. Jamie Whitaker

### Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SPC Manuel Lopez III**, HHC 3-7 IN, 4th BDE, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CPT Michael Hooper, Rear Detachment Commander 3-7 IN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-5867. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Kelly Morris**, B Co., 1/64 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Elliott, HQ, 1/64AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-8665 or 767-7730. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Javier J. Garcia**, C Co., 1/64 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. David Sherer, HHB, HQ, 1/9 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7235. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **PV1 Dustin A. Goforth**, 38th Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Christopher M. Handy, 179th Military Police Detachment, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 352-5038. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SPC Alenia Ramirez-Gonzalez**, HHC 1-3 BTB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CW2 Coleman, HHT 5-7 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-2179. (1)

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# 3D Soldier owes life to ballistic plate — absorbs hit

Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Less than a month ago, Army Spc. Anthony Dowden was shot in the back with a sniper rifle.

But he survived with nothing more serious than bruises, thanks to a new high-tech small-arms protective insert armored plate in his ballistic vest.

The 22-year-old tank crewman, deployed from Fort Stewart, Ga., was on a routine security patrol here Mar. 22. After spending some time performing “overwatch” at a checkpoint, Dowden stood up in his tank’s turret to get a better look at a young Iraqi man with what appeared to be an AK-47 rifle.

He soon realized the young man had a pellet gun and posed no threat.

“After a few minutes of observing him wondering why he was running around, what exactly he was doing, I put my binoculars down and looked down inside my tank to look for footing to lower myself down,” Dowden said in an interview with American Forces Press Service. “And that’s when I got hit.”

He said his unit’s leaders believe he was shot with a sniper rifle.

“I felt just this incredible force on my back,” Dowden said. “It threw me forward.”

The shot took a divot out of the lower edge of the armor plate and resulted in a bruised kidney and “a massive bruise” on the side of Dowden’s back. Paperwork has been submitted to award the Hilton Head, S.C., native a Purple Heart medal.

Dowden, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, said he feels without a doubt that the SAPI plate saved his life. He said he believes he’s well-served by the Army-issued protective equipment. “It’s the best that we can get right now,” he said.

During an Apr. 11 visit to Baghdad by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Dowden and his division commander, Maj. Gen. William Webster, presented the damaged plate to the secretary as a memento.

“Thank goodness this sniper round hit this SAPI plate,” Webster said during a town hall-style meeting here. “This is his SAPI plate that he’d like to present to you, sir, for all the things you do for our soldiers.”

SAPI plates are designed to stop a 7.62 mm round, which is standard AK-47 rifle ammunition, a DoD spokesman said. As of February 2004, all soldiers and Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan have the plates.



Tech. Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby

*(Above) Army Spc. Anthony Dowden, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, presents a piece of armor to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld during a town hall meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, on Apr. 12. Dowden credited the small-arms protective insert plate in his ballistic vest with saving his life Mar. 22.*

*(Right) Today's Soldiers are issued personal protection gear such as the SAPI plates pictured here. It was one such device that saved the life of Spc. Dowden. The material used to provide personal protection is used in all the personally worn gear of Soldiers such as helmets, etc.*



File Photo



Sgt. Thomas Benoit

Col. Ali Jasim Mohammed, commander, 1st Muthana Battalion, Iraqi Army, works at his desk in the battalion's headquarters in Mahmudiyah.

# 1st Muthana Battalion saves lives at checkpoint

**Capt. Bryan K. Cecrle**  
2/70th Armor Public Affairs

**MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq** — If you are a terrorist in Iraq, Col. Ali Jasim Mohammed has some advice for you, "Iraq is not good for you. Of course, they (the terrorists) will die." Ali is the commander of the Iraqi Army's 1st Muthana Battalion, headquartered in Mahmudiyah.

As with most military units here — both Iraqi and U.S. — improvised explosive devices have become a major focus of training and combat operations.

Mohammed's unit was responsible for manning a traffic control checkpoint south of Mahmudiyah, locally known as the IED Bridge, when an Iraqi soldier directing traffic through the checkpoint

noticed a driver acting suspiciously the Soldier directed the car to stop and was preparing to search the vehicle when the driver detonated a bomb concealed in the car.

The Iraqi Army Soldiers immediately secured the area and notified Ali. When asked if they needed additional Soldiers to come to the site, the TCP commander told his boss that none were needed — they had the situation under control. The TCP opened again to traffic shortly after.

Ali said only three Soldiers were injured in the attack. Other Soldiers provided buddy aid and then evacuated the wounded to further medical care.

Ali said the actions of his Soldiers saved many lives that evening, because he believes that this vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was intended for the Arba'iniyah pilgrims on the route

north of the TCP. This year, hundreds of pilgrims walked along roads to Karbala, in remembrance of the massacre of Imam Husein and the other members of the Household of the Prophet in 680 A.D.

The checkpoint commander says the training and awareness of his Soldiers made a difference in this year's pilgrimage. "What happened proved they do their jobs in a good way. This VBIED was stopped due to the diligence of the Iraqi Army Soldier."

Iraqi civilians provided a tip that may have saved even more lives just after this VBIED. They informed the Soldiers that there was another suspicious car just down the road from the TCP with three people. As Iraqi Army Soldiers approached this vehicle, the occupants attempted to flee but lost control of their car. The Iraqi Army Soldiers

engaged the three occupants, injuring one, but were unable to detain them. Local civilians later confirmed that one of the occupants was injured, but was carried off by the others.

This vehicle had another IED that was ready to be planted. The 1st Presidential Bn. rendered the bomb safe and recovered both it and the car for further investigation.

Ali said when he came here four months ago, people were afraid to approach the Iraqi Army with information. Now, the local populace provides information that he is able to use to stop IEDs.

When asked how he felt about the job his Soldiers are doing, Ali said, "I am proud all of the time. My Soldiers are here to fight for peace. Terrorists have no place because of the Iraqi Army."

## Task Force Baghdad reports

### Iraqi Army, U.S. Soldiers arrest terrorists, defuse IEDs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — In two separate incidents, bombs in the Baghdad area were found before terrorists could use them.

Acting on a tip from an Iraqi local national, Iraqi Army Soldiers discovered a improvised explosive device placed near the home of a former ministry official. Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were called to the scene to assist. An explosives ordnance disposal team arrived and removed the bomb.

The other IED was spotted by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers who described it as a burlap sack with wires coming from it. An explosives ordnance team detonated the bomb in place.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers also performed two cordon-and-search operations, netting two suspected terrorists.

In the first search, Soldiers raided a terrorist cell leader's house and detained the identified suspect.

Another late-night operation targeted four former regime generals. One of the generals was taken into custody. He is suspected of planning and carrying out attacks on multi-national forces.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, two local nationals were detained when Task Force Baghdad Soldiers observed them unloading what appeared to be munitions from their car. The suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

### Iraqi tip leads U.S. Soldiers to terrorist safehouse

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — An Iraqi teenager's tip helped Task Force Baghdad Soldiers discover an anti-Iraqi forces safe house and take a terrorist into custody.

The Soldiers searched the west Baghdad house the local Iraqi tipster reported and found two sets of U.S. Desert Camouflage Uniforms, one rocket propelled grenade sight and terrorist propaganda. The unit also detained and questioned a suspect at the site.

"It has taken six months to develop a rapport with the people in our area. However, this is just an example of how people are starting to feel safe and secure enough to provide us with information that led 1st Platoon in capturing a suspected anti-Iraqi Force member," Capt. Aaron Duplechin, commander, A Company, 3/156th Infantry, 256th Brigade Combat Team, said.

The suspect was later taken to an internment facility for further questioning. "All residents who have information about terrorist activity in their neighborhoods are encouraged to help Iraqi Security Forces rid the streets of crime by calling or e-mailing the TIPS hotline," Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson, said.

In another operation, U.S. Soldiers on patrol located an anti-Iraqi forces observation point on a rooftop in the Abu Ghraib market area. The Soldiers searched the site and found two improvised explosive device initiators.

Later in the day, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers at a checkpoint observed a hand grenade explosion. When the unit went to investigate they found a local national who ran when the Soldiers approached. The Soldiers apprehended the suspect and the man became violent. The man tested positive for explosives residue and was taken to an internment facility.

### Task Force Baghdad raids net two more terror suspects

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A cordon and search operation by Iraqi Army Soldiers resulted in the capture of a terrorist wanted for working with anti-Iraqi forces. The suspect was taken to the Iraqi Army unit's headquarters for questioning.

Another Iraqi Army unit searched a house in north Baghdad after a detainee from a previous raid told them weapons were being hidden there. The Iraqi Soldiers found 12 grenades, two rocket-propelled grenade missiles and one mortar round.

In west Baghdad, U.S. Soldiers raided another house and captured another specifically tar-



File Photo

**Soldiers patrol an Iraqi neighborhood. Constant four patrols and military presence in the neighborhoods reassures the Iraqis and helps thwart insurgents.**

geted terror suspect. The Soldiers also found one nine-millimeter handgun with magazines, AK-47 rifle ammunition and a passport. They also found other forms of identification used by the targeted individual.

Both suspects remain in U.S. custody. "Over the last three days, the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police, Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers have taken more than 70 suspected terrorists into custody," said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "Our capabilities continue to grow and improve every day as our Iraqi Security Forces counterparts grow stronger."

### Iraqi Army, U.S. forces seize terrorists, weapons

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Multi-national forces kept the heat on terrorists in Iraq, bringing five more into custody in two overnight raids recently.

A cordon-and-search operation by Iraqi Army Soldiers resulted in the capture of a terrorist wanted for working with anti-Iraqi forces. The suspect was taken to the Iraqi Army unit's headquarters for questioning.

Another Iraqi Army unit searched a house in north Baghdad after a detainee from a previous raid told them weapons were being hidden there. The Iraqi Soldiers found 12 grenades, two rocket-propelled grenade missiles and one mortar round.

"Iraqi Security Forces are shouldering more and more of the responsibility for achieving stability and security in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent. "The goal is to empower the Iraqi forces to take the fight to the terrorists."

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers arrested four more terrorists in three separate raids conducted early this morning. One of the detainees belonged to an extremist group involved in several terrorist attacks and another is a member of a mortar team. All three men are in custody.

U.S. Soldiers also discovered two weapons caches. In north Baghdad Soldiers found two bags full of hand grenades and in west Baghdad an explosives ordnance team safely detonated a rocket propelled grenade round and five mortar rounds.



# Iraqi Police, Army keep crowd calm following shots from insurgents

**Sgt. Thomas Benoit**  
*256th BCT Public Affairs*

**LUTAFIYAH, Iraq** — Iraqi Soldiers and Police proved their mettle when shots rang out at a recent civil action project, sending some residents scattering for cover.

The medical civil action project in Lutafiyah was sponsored by the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion attached to 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Iraqi Police and Army forces, trained by U.S. Army units in crowd-control techniques and procedures, were on hand as the 407th CA Bn. handed out care packages, baby formula and hygiene items.

As the American Soldiers worked health-care issues with the several hundred citizens who showed up to the site, IPs and IAs were responsible for security and crowd control.

During the civil action project, several rounds fired from an AK-47 machine gun rang out, sending children running through out the streets and seeking shelter.

Thanks to the professional actions of the Iraqi Soldiers and Police, the majority of the crowd maintained its composure and chaos did not ensue.

Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army Soldiers quickly took control of the situation with no required involvement from U.S. forces.

“The Iraqi forces on the scene did everything by the book — and beyond — as they responded to a potentially violent situation,” Lt. Col. Clifford Ken, said.

“Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were mere shadows in the background — there to lend support, but letting the Iraqi Army and Police take center stage when a crisis threatened to erupt. This one small incident speaks volumes about the hopeful future of Iraq,” he said.



Sgt. Thomas Benoit

**Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police along with Soldiers from the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion react to small-arms fire during a medical civil action project in Lutafiyah, Iraq.**

## Sadr City leaders work to improve residents lives

**Maj. Russ Goemaere**  
*2 BCT Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD**— Local leaders from Sadr City, joined by members of Task Force Baghdad, met as a body for the first time.

The purpose was to discuss partnership and contracting issues for the rehabilitation of Sadr City.

Representatives from Sadr City included the grand sheiks of the local tribes, members of the Badr Corps, Sadr Bureau, Faylee Kurd Organization, Al-Salam International Conference, Al-Nijood Company, Abou The-ar Al-Khifari League, National Assembly and the District Advisory Council.

DAC Chairman, Hussan Shama chaired the meeting.

All the members are unified by one idea, how best to help the people of Sadr City.

The members are trying to attract foreign investment and commercial enterprise to the city which currently has a large pool of unemployed.

The members believe the work force is ready and willing to work for bargain wages but the lack of an industrial and service base is slowing progress.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in about two weeks.

Cooperative partnerships such as this council help strengthen American and Iraqi ties.



Maj. Russ Goemaere

**Local leaders from Sadr City, joined by members of Task Force Baghdad, meet as a group for the first time. The members are trying to attract foreign investment and commercial enterprise to the city. Topics discussed included partnership and contracting issues for the rehabilitation of Sadr City.**

# State enforces rules for outdoor water use

Dept. Public Works  
Environmental Compliance Branch

Despite flooding in various parts of the state, and the presence of water in many of the roadside ditches, Georgia has not forgotten the drought it has suffered through over the past several years.

As a result of this, the Coastal Empire, of which Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are a part, remains under strict water usage restrictions for outdoor water use.

On May 26, 2004, the Board of Natural Resources adopted Rules for Outdoor Water Use, requiring specific schedules be followed for outdoor water use irrespective of the current drought (or non-drought) condition.

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield is no exception. Currently, odd-even calendar day outdoor watering restrictions remain in effect.

This means that even-numbered homes and businesses may use water for non-essential outdoor purposes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Odd-numbered houses and businesses may use water for non-essential outdoor purposes on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays while ALL outdoor watering will be prohibited on Fridays.

"The goal is to get all Georgians to manage their outdoor water use, even during times of non-drought," said EPD Director Carol A. Couch. "Population growth, combined with inevitable periods of drought, make water conservation more important than ever."

Although the drought conditions seem to change, the need to manage and maintain our limited water supplies has not.

State and local governments in Georgia have been preparing for decades to help meet water supply needs during drought situations and since Georgia's last major drought during 1986-1988, progress has been made by developing drought contingency and emergency plans, as well as adopting local ordinances to impose water restrictions.

Ms. Tressa Rutland, Directorate of Public Works Environmental Compliance Branch Chief, said that "In addition to water conservation, we in the Coastal District need to be concerned about saltwater intrusion since most of the water consumed in this region is pumped from the ground. Studies predict that saltwater intrusion is a real threat and we need to do all we can to minimize the impact by reducing our dependency on water withdrawn from the aquifer. We are fortunate that Georgia communities have not yet experienced true suffering in terms of water supply shortages. By comparison, outdoor water usage restrictions are a mere inconvenience to homeowners and some businesses, but hardly a major inconvenience considering alternative scenarios."

Throughout the state, Georgia faces many challenges in its quest for a sustainable water supply, such as population growth, low stream flow rates, saltwater intrusion, and depletion of groundwater sources.

Water conservation must become an integral component of effective water resource management for sustainable economic development.

As fresh water sources in several regions of the state may be approaching their sustainable limits, Rutland emphasized that



**Household leaks account for millions of gallons of lost water each year.**

water usage must be prioritized and water conservation must become the norm rather than a last resort during times of crisis.

Initiatives to manage water resources effectively can only be achieved through cooperation and collaboration among Georgia's eight million citizens.

Individuals must conserve water at home and at work throughout the year.

Businesses and industries across the state must find more efficient ways to use water and eliminate waste.

Farmers must help find solutions that reduce their irrigation needs while protecting their crops.

And local governments must drought-proof themselves before the next drought by increasing their water storage capacity and implementing aggressive conservation programs. Everyone at Fort Stewart and HAAF must continue to do their part by conserving water.

Changing our water use habits in ways that will help the resource sustain itself is important not only for ourselves and for the animals and plants upon which we depend for food, but also for future generations.

The outlook continues to brighten for our water supply but we need to continue conserving to help eliminate drought conditions for the State and to help us all in the future.

For more information on the current Fort Stewart/HAAF water restrictions and other articles about FS/HAAF environmental programs, visit the DPW intranet Web site or the MS Office Outlook Public Folders (DPW, Public Folders and DPW, Environmental & Natural Resources Division folders).

Visit the Georgia EPD's Web site for more in-depth information at [www.dnr.state.ga.us/](http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/).

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

According to officials of the GA Environmental Protection Division, consumers can cut water use by an additional 15% with very little difficulty or discomfort by using voluntary water conservation practices in the home and garden. Consider utilizing some of these great water-saving tips below that are not only inexpensive, but also simple to execute. Everyone is encouraged to do his or her part.

**Kitchen & Laundry** — Eliminate leaks by turning faucets off completely and, as needed, replace old gaskets. A single dripping faucet can waste as much as 3,600 gallons a year.Σ

- Don't rinse dirty dishes before loading into dishwasher; scrape clean and let the machine do the rest.

- Don't use a garbage disposal.
- Use the "water-saver" setting or make sure your machine is set for the most efficient use.
- Only wash full loads of dishes or clothes.

**Bathroom** — If you hear running water in your toilet tank, adjust the leaky float valve or replace the faulty hardware. Check for leaks by dropping a small amount of food coloring in the upper tank. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

- Flush only when necessary. Install a water-filled plastic jug in your toilet tank to reduce the water used per flush, without disturbing the flushing mechanism.

- Don't use your toilet as a trash can (not only does it use excess water, it requires additional energy to separate from the waste stream and can potentially clog pipes).

- Take fewer and shorter showers and consider taking a Navy-style shower — 1) wet down, 2) turn water off, 3) lather, 4) rinse.

- Don't leave the water running while rinsing, shaving, or brushing teeth.

- Reuse bath water or excess water as you await water temperatures to adjust for other uses such as watering plants in or near the house, to soak clothes, etc.

**Lawn & Garden** — Hold your garden hose close to the roots of plants so that there's little waste and evaporative loss. (soaker hoses are even more efficient).

- Water slowly so that the soil soaks up all the water you use. To avoid the possibility of disease (due to promotion of fungi growth), and minimize evaporation, the best time to water is very early morning hours (dawn to approximately 9 am). Avoid watering on windy days (which increases evaporation).

- Position sprinklers so that they do not water the pavement. Do not over water allowing water to run down the street. Note-turf grasses survive on as little as a half inch of water per week.

- Never let water run unnecessarily. Installing a spray handle helps. Allow your grass to grow to approximately 3 inches before cutting.

- Don't let children play with the hose or sprinkler (take advantage of the many local swimming pools).

- Limit car washing. Use a bucket and a hose with spray attachment for rinsing and, if possible, reuse water capture from inside the home from other uses (as noted under Bathroom).

- Don't use the hose to clean driveways and sidewalks, instead use a broom, which will provide more exercise.

- Mulch plants to reduce evaporation and to help to retain moisture.

# Saddam-defying colonel now leads Iraqi Army Bde.

**Spc. Matthew McLaughlin**  
10th Mountain Division PAO

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAWK, Iraq** — When Coalition Forces were faced with having to help Iraq rebuild its Army, they knew they needed someone who would walk down the most dangerous street in Baghdad without fear; someone who would ignore religious differences for the greater good; someone who once told Saddam Hussein where to go.

They needed a leader and found an outspoken warrior.

Col. Mohammad Faik Rauf al-Samarai, commander, 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, is a stark contrast to the image of a ruthless Iraqi Army commander.

Known to all as “Colonel Mohammad,” his graying hair and wrinkles around his eyes and mouth from years of laughter mask a hardened warrior’s heart. He has experienced both national and personal struggles yet manages to laugh in the face of strife.

Mohammad served as an air defense officer in Hussein’s regime. He boasted that he excelled beyond officers who outranked him and was a valued asset to the Army. He received 14 medals from Saddam, awards he now gives as gifts to American allies. As proud as he is of his accomplishments, he spoke with equal pride of his imprisonment after an alleged argument with Hussein, the tyrant known for executing dissenters.

“I told Saddam I don’t care about him, I care about God,” Mohammad recalled of the comment that sent him away for eight months and 11 days, a number Mohammad kept track of by marking every day on the wall of his cell in between beatings from the prison guards.

“Every day they beat me,” he said as if reading the memories from a book, apparently devoid of hatred.

Eventually, Hussein released Mohammad and reinstated him as an officer. Mohammad no longer wished to serve in the Army.

“I told Saddam I need to quit. I told him that I’ve gone crazy and I can’t work. He said if I can’t work I’ll go back to jail. I said ‘Okay, I’ll go back to work,’” Mohammad said and laughed.

After Coalition Forces defeated Hussein’s Army, Mohammad joined the Iraqi National Guard. He joined as a captain for operations and in less than a year worked his way to colonel. After several unsuccessful battalion commanders, Mohammad became commander of the 303rd ING, now known as the 2/1 IA.

Under Mohammad’s leadership, the 2/1 IA flourished, said Staff Sgt. Kiplangat D. Marisin, an IA advisor from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

“He is the type of leader they needed to get things done,” the South Bend, Ind. native said. “He’s compassionate to the Iraqi people, but if you’re bad...”

A major contribution to Mohammad’s success was his personal selection of 2/1 IA leadership. Mohammad, a Sunni Muslim, is in charge of an overwhelmingly Shia battalion. He ignored religious and political affiliations and selected officers and non-commissioned officers for promotion based on performance, said Capt. Christopher G. Johnson, a 2/1 IA advisor.

“He operates no differently with Sunnis, Shias and Christians,” he said. “They are all Soldiers first.”

Mohammad and his 2/1 IA Soldiers faced a major challenge in February when they assumed responsibility over part of Haifa Street, a notoriously dangerous road in Baghdad. Violent hostilities towards Coalition Forces earned the street the title “Death Street” to media outlets.

“It was hell,” Mohammad said. “No one could open shops, no one could leave their house, no one could go to school. Many people were killed.”

Mohammad combated the terrorists by saturating the streets with dismounted Soldiers and working with the community to uncover terrorist operations. After several weeks of intense fighting, 2/1 IA significantly reduced terrorist activities.



Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

**Col. Mohammad Faik Rauf al-Samarai, commander, 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, talks with Lt. Col. David B. Batchelor, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, during cordon searched. Mohammad is in charge of a section of Haifa Street, formerly an insurgent hot spot in Baghdad.**

“When my 303rd (Soldiers) go to Haifa Street, they take care of the problem,” Mohammad boasted. “They captured many terrorists and worked very hard. They cleaned the roads, cleaned up the trash and helped people.”

Mohammad led the pack of motivated Soldiers on the front lines. He gained respect from U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers by leading from the front and willingly putting himself in harm’s way. Mohammad made his presence felt to Haifa Street, residents, introducing himself to everyone he could, said Capt. Mike Campbell, an IA advisor.

“Mohammad will walk the streets and talk to people,” he said. “Someone will wave at him and he will go and talk to them. Twenty feet later he’s talking to someone else.”

His willingness to face danger as well as his loyalty to his troops is matched by the Soldiers’ loyalty to Mohammad and their fearlessness in battle.

His Soldiers don’t run from a fight and their

courage is a reflection of their leader, said Lt. Col. Mark Kneram, officer in charge, 2nd BCT advisors.

“They respond to the fact he leads from the front. He cares about his Soldiers and they know that,” Kneram said.

Mohammad’s success and high profile has come at a price, however. He claims he’s escaped 42 assassination attempts. He joked that if cats have nine lives, he must have at least 43.

His family is also subjected to attacks. His cousin was reportedly kidnapped by terrorists and Mohammad had to restrain himself from retaliation. Even his mother was attacked and threatened.

His wife and children must take tremendous precautions to ensure their safety.

“It is hard for them,” he said. “We continue with our lives. It is worth it if it gives my son a future, En shaa Allah (God willing).”

# Iraqi, 2nd Bde. Soldiers form bond-of-brothers

Story and photos by  
**Spc. Matthew McLaughlin**  
*10th Mountain Division PAO*

**CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad** — If an Iraqi battalion and American Soldiers met on a street in Baghdad less than three years ago, blood might have soaked the streets.

War cries were replaced with a jubilant reunion, however, when Iraqi soldiers bumped into their American trainers on separate patrols and embraced each other like longtime friends recently.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division military transition team and 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade shared battles, meals, tragedies and triumphs together. As the 2nd BCT Soldiers neared the end of their tour, they reflected on their time spent with their friends from what they consider the best battalion in the Iraqi Army.



**An Iraqi Army soldier pulls security during a patrol around Baghdad. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade are responsible for Haifa Street, an infamous road in Baghdad that has remained relatively silent for more than a month.**

Before they became friends, however, both sides needed to gain each other's trust.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Barker, an IA trainer said he was apprehensive towards his new trainees at first. He didn't know if they were trustworthy or reliable in battle. But he said he has been slowly and continually impressed with their hospitality and integrity.

"My opinions were mixed on them when I first came here," Barker, an engineer from the

58th Combat Engineer Company, said. "But now I'll stand next to them and fight any day.

The Iraqi Soldiers also had to learn to trust and rely upon a new group of U.S. Soldiers to train them. The 2/1 IA Soldiers already established close bonds with their prior trainers from the 1st Cavalry Division. Like a new kid in the neighborhood, the Iraqis were reluctant to make new friends, said Staff Sgt. Joseph T. Myer an IA trainer.

"When we started working together, they were apprehensive," he said. "But over time we called each other 'akhuyas,'" meaning brothers in Arabic.

Both sides got a crash course in trust and friendship after their first firefight together. The Iraqis saw the Americans were highly proficient in battle and the Americans were impressed with the Iraqis' willingness to stand by them and fight, said Staff Sgt. Kiplangat D. Marisin, an IA trainer.

"We've been in so many fire-fights with them," he said. "You have to be able to trust the guy next to you... The company I'm with will do just about anything for me."

Marisin said the Iraqi Soldiers also began to open up when they realized the trainers were sincere in their efforts to assist the Iraqi Army.

"They saw we really cared about them," Marisin said.

"I think a lot of our friendship came when they realized we're here to help," Barker added.

The awkward phase finally ended and Soldiers from both sides became familiar with each other, calling each other by name or simply "akhuya." Their alliance that was once

built on obligation now had established a special camaraderie. Their communications were supported by translators and the few Iraqi Soldiers who spoke English. Both sides exchanged stories, jokes and meals, Marisin said.

"I showed them family pictures, they showed me theirs," he said. "We hang out in the barracks with them and get to know them. We had some real deep conversations about how they felt about us, our culture, our families and things they've been through under Saddam Hussein."

The Soldiers also experienced Iraqi generosity in the form of gift-giving. The 2/1 IA Soldiers were always willing to give what little they had to their allies. One Soldier particularly close to Marisin's heart gave him a gift for his wife when Marisin went on leave.

"This guy never asked me for anything," he said. "When I went on leave, he gave me jewelry for my wife."

Marisin was grateful for his friend's heartfelt present and wanted to return the favor. When he returned, Marisin gave the Iraqi Soldier a number of gifts, including a leather jacket.

"He just about cried he was so happy," he recalled.

Concern for their friends made it harder when Iraqi Soldiers died, however. The 2nd BCT Soldiers felt their comrades' pain and gained a greater respect for their struggles, Barker said.

"These guys go through more sacrifices than U.S. Soldiers," he said. "We're here for a year, but they have to go home at night."

One Iraqi's death in particular hit Soldiers from both sides particularly hard, Barker said.

A respected Iraqi lieutenant who quickly befriended the Americans was captured by insurgents and beheaded. Barker somberly recalled the last conversation he had with his friend.

"The night before he died, he was going



**Staff Sgt. Kiplangat D. Marisin, an Iraq Army trainer, speaks to a 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade Soldier. The Iraqi Soldier, a close friend to Marisin, was shot in the face several weeks ago. Marisin said he was greatly concerned and embraced him when he saw him for the first time seen here.**

home and he said good night," he said. "I told him to be careful walking the streets after dark."

The Iraqi and American Soldiers were devastated by their loss. The trainers attended the lieutenant's memorial, complete with traditional rifle fire honoring the deceased, alongside their 2/1 IA counterparts.

"They had one of the biggest funerals for him," Barker said. "You would have thought World War III broke out with how many rounds they shot off for him."

Soldiers from 2nd BCT are nearing the end of their deployment and while they are looking forward to going home, they all said they don't look forward to leaving their comrades.

Unfortunately very few Iraqi Soldiers have e-mail accounts, or home addresses for that matter, so communications will likely end in Iraq.

For now, however, the American Soldiers said they will value their friendship for a lifetime.



**A 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Soldier observes a 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade Soldier pull security during a cordon search in Baghdad.**



# Iraqi Soldiers uncover large weapons cache

*Task Force Baghdad*

**BAGHDAD** — An Iraqi Army unit discovered a weapons cache in the Salman Pak area April 18 shortly before noon.

The stockpile of weaponry included mortars, rockets and two cars which had been prepared to serve as vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

The ISF-led mission in Salman Pak involved elements from the Iraqi Army, Police and Public Order Brigades..

Task Force Baghdad officials said the significant find will help to break terrorist attempts to intimidate the local population and attack Iraqi Security Forces and coalition forces.

"This mission shows the effectiveness of our strategy to increase the capability of the ISF through deliberate partnership with US Forces. We are much more effective when conducting joint operations (ISF-US) which maximizes the strengths of all forces involved," said Maj. Daniel Cormier, operations officer, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.



***Mortar rounds once belonging to terrorists are stacked up against a wall in the Salman Pak area after an Iraqi Army unit uncovered a large weapons cache.***

***U.S. and Iraqi forces continue to uncover caches all over Baghdad City.***

Sgt. David Winkel



Sgt. David Winkel

***Ammunition and bomb-making materials are lined up on the ground in the Salman Pak area after an Iraqi Army unit uncovered a large weapons cache.***

## Baghdad in Brief

**Iraqi Police respond to car bomb attack — Soldier injured in attack**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Four Iraqis and one U.S. Soldier were wounded when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated.

The blast struck a mounted Task Force Baghdad patrol in north-central Baghdad and the Soldiers quickly secured the area.

Iraqi Police took charge of evacuating the wounded local nationals to Varmouk Hospital.

The wounded U.S. Soldier was taken to a local military treatment facility where he is listed in stable condition.

The incident is currently under investigation.

# 256th BCT builds driver's course to save lives

Story and Photos by  
**Spc. Chris Foster**  
*256th BCT Public Affairs*

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq** — The 256th Brigade Combat Team broke ground recently with the help of two D7 dozers and a Volvo front loader for the first ever Driver's Confidence Course in North Liberty, Iraq, this month.

256th BCT has lost three Soldiers as a result of vehicle accidents on dangerous terrain conditions since being deployed.

Most roads in and around Baghdad are narrow, raised roads, bordered by canals or ditches that can have five to 10 feet of mud and water.

Those conditions make the roads just as dangerous as terrorist activities.

The 256th BCT Commander, Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr., said he felt the best way to prevent these types of accidents was to provide a realistic and challenging driving confidence course on which Soldiers will be able to train.

To that end, the operations command sergeant major and the unit's master drivers, worked with the brigade safety officer to develop the first enduring driver's training course on Camp Liberty.

The course, which consists of both classroom training and practical exer-

cises, allows drivers the opportunity to test the limitations of their equipment and skills in a controlled environment.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Boutte from Lafayette, La., with Headquarters Company, 256th BCT, and the non-commissioned officer in charge of the project, said the course will provide driving scenarios as close to real-world challenges as possible.

The driver's training course is designed to provide Tiger Brigade Soldiers with a challenging, realistic training experience that closely mirrors the environment in which we fight, said Maj. Kenneth Copple, the 256th's safety officer.

"The BCT Master Drivers designed this driver's training course to combine classroom instruction and practical, hands-on training by replicating raised canal roads, serpentine barricades and narrow lanes drivers must negotiate," said Copple.

"The course is a great tool to prepare newly arriving replacements as well as providing sustainment training, both day and night for our experienced drivers," he said.

This Driver's Confidence Course will be beneficial to experienced and inexperienced drivers alike.

Though the focus of the course is to improve a Soldier's driving skills, the secondary effect is the prevention of accidents caused by careless mistakes made in combat.

"The sooner we get the course, the sooner we can have Soldiers honing their driving skills before they get out the wire," Boutte said.

Use of the course, designed for day training and night training with night-vision goggles, may be scheduled by a unit's master driver.

In addition to being licensed on military tactical vehicles, one other prerequisite to training is attending a safety briefing prior to driving on the course, Boutte noted.



**(Above) Staff Sgt. Terry Readoux, Headquarters 1088th Engineer Battalion, 256th Brigade Combat Team, clears the area in a Volvo front loader for the new Driver Confidence Courses at Camp Liberty, Iraq. (Below) Two D7 Dozers cut grade for the simulated canal road. The dozers are operated by Spc. Dwayne Sinegal and Spc. Chris Johnson both with A Co. 1088th Engineer Battalion 256th BCT.**



**Sgt. 1st Class Donald Boutte, Headquarters Co. 256th BCT, makes sure that the dozers keep the grade during the first phase of construction of a Driver's Confidence Course in North Liberty, Iraq.**





# 48th Bde. travels on its stomach — say the cooks

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Roy Henry**  
*GNG Public Affairs*

At 1:30 in the morning on any typical day at Forward Operating Base Taylor, the only people up and moving are the sentries, the early morning patrols and the cooks.

“We’re up before the cock crows, if we had one, getting breakfast on for an estimated 300 Soldiers, all of whom expect their food to be ready and waiting on them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Barnes, who manages the food service section for Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry.

Their day often doesn’t end until 10 p.m. when the last pan has been cleaned and equipment readied for the next day’s meals.

Soldiers of the 121st are among the more than 4,000 48th Brigade Combat Team troops who are at Fort

Stewart near Savannah getting trained for a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have been on active duty since January.

With more than 4,000 Citizen-Soldiers involved, this deployment is the largest of its kind since World War II

When the cooks arrive in country, they may not find themselves behind a stove or serving line, Barnes said. “We could be part of force protection or even on the line,” he said.

Putting the eggs on, getting the bacon crisp, the sausage right and the coffee hot isn’t the only chore Barnes and his section must accomplish before the line starts forming outside their Mobile Kitchen Trailer, or MKT. They must also set out the plastic-ware and cups, the milk and muffins, and the fresh fruit.

And it’s their job to put out the Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) that each Soldier picks up on his way out of the mess tent.

“Meals here in the field, and sometimes back in garrison, consist of a hot breakfast and hot dinner,” said Staff Sgt. Israel Coates, Barnes’ assistant manager while cleaning. “An MRE for lunch allows the Soldier to get the nourishment he needs and remain out on patrol or involved in whatever training he’s doing.”

After the morning meal, Coates, Pfc. James Williams, Pfc. Milton Mitchell and the rest of the section begin the process of cleaning the stoves, ovens and grills so they’re ready for the evening meal. Part of the section also restocks foodstuffs and cleans up the mess tent.

The easiest meal to prepare in the shortest time is cheeseburgers and beans, Coates allowed while watching Williams refuel a stove’s burners. Probably the one that takes the longest, he said, is pot roast and macaroni with cheese.

“Really doesn’t make a difference, though,” he said. “No matter how long it takes, it’s our job to make sure those people out there are fed, and that they enjoy their meal,” he said pointing a finger toward the row of tents across the way from the mobile kitchen.

With only a small section, there are only nine cooks doing the work of a 14 to 16-Soldier section, Barnes admitted, it’s a challenge to feed so many people, but one that the cooks agreed that they enjoy taking on.



**Private 1st Class James Williams (left) and Staff Sgt. Israel Coates inspect one of several stoves they use to prepare meals aboard their Mobile Kitchen Trailer.**

“We sometimes don’t feel appreciated for all that we do to make sure our fellow Soldiers have meals that not

only nourish them but are enjoyable,” Coates said. “I doubt anyone realizes it, but our guys often buy what we

call ‘morale lifters’ such as spices and the like with their own money so we can do that.”

Barnes, Coates said, also does his best to find special items, like steaks, soft drinks and burgers through troop issue.

One Soldier who said he certainly appreciates the cooks is Staff Sgt. Samuel Watts II, a combat medic with Headquarters Company. There’s not a day that goes by, the Albany resident said, that he doesn’t “thank the food service Gods” for Barnes and his people.

“Those guys should be proud of what they do,” Watts said. “The meals they serve up, the things they do for us really make a difference in our morale.”

Pride, Barnes said, isn’t something his Soldiers lack. It’s that pride, that self-gratification in “a meal well-prepared,” that makes them some of the best cooks in the 48th Brigade, he said.



**Staff Sgt. Samuel Watts II (left) gets his dinner served up by Pfc. Milton Mitchell.**

## TFB Soldiers nab former Iraqi Army Brig. General

**Former intelligence service officer found through an informer’s tip. The general turned insurgent following the fall of Hussein’s army.**

**BAGHDAD** — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers detained a former regime intelligence service brigadier general during a targeted raid in the Ghazaliya district of Baghdad.

Information on the former general’s alleged involvement with terrorist activities was obtained from tips from local residents and informants.

During the raid, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers also seized several AK-47 rifles with ammunition and several computers and data storage devices.

The former general and one other individual are being held for questioning.

“This was an important success for the forces of good here in Iraq as the Iraqi Army and coalition units continue to chip away at the crumbling terrorist network,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. “But what’s even more significant, I think, is the fact that we received a tip which enabled us to find and detain the former general.”

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Bowling and Golf

Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members. No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.

Library

Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Army Hooah Race

Soldiers, civilians, family members

and friends of the Army are invited to participate in the 4th Annual Army Hooah Race Jun. 11. The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in the metro-Atlanta area. Come and enjoy the fun.

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. William Bissonette at (404) 464-8228 or by e-mail at [william.bissonette@us.army.mil](mailto:william.bissonette@us.army.mil).

Baseball

Registration for youth Baseball, T-ball, & Girls' Softball is currently underway and ends on Apr. 28. Registration is FREE and open to all CYS members living on or off post. We must have at least 40 participants for each age group in order to have leagues for each sport.

MARNE TV BROADCAST OF TOWN HALL MEETING ON NEW CIVILIAN HUMAN RESOURCE SYSTEM

The Department of Defense has been given the authority to establish a new human resources system, called the National Security Personnel System.

NSPS will establish new rules for how civilians are hired, assigned, compensated, promoted and disciplined. NSPS will also have elements that address the DoD's labor relations and appeals process. This major change of the human resources system will impact every civilian employee within the Department of Army as well as all civilian and military supervisors of civilian employees.

The Town Hall Meeting is conducted by Mary E. Lacey, the Program Executive Officer for NSPS. As the head of the NSPS Program Executive Office, Mrs. Lacey will report directly to England, who was asked by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to provide guidance and oversight as the program's senior executive.

Mary Lacey leads the comprehensive policy and program management office that will complete the design, planning, assessment, and implementation of NSPS. She is working with OPM to lead a broad collaboration within an open process; one that provides opportunities for employee, manager and union input and dialog.

The program on the new system will air on Marne TV at 9 a.m., Noon and 6 p.m. beginning Apr. 22.

Hunter

Car Checks

Motorists exiting HAAF should be prepared to stop at Outbound Gate, during hours of darkness.

Post access

Post access is no longer possible from Hampstead Ave. Gate. A security fence now exits beyond the Gannam Heights construction site.

Tax center open

For late tax filers the tax center is open through Apr. 29. The center is located in the Legal Center, Bldg. 1211, and is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. Thursdays center opens at 1 p.m.

Call 303-3675 to make appointment.

College Fair/Open House

Apr. 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Education Center

Dinner & a movie

There will be a dinner & movie for all family members at HAAF, not just those living on post, Apr. 23, at the Hunter Club, 1 - 4 p.m. If you wish to attend, contact your FRG leader or Mr. Sanders, at 651-5314 or by email at [sandersd@savannahredcross.org](mailto:sandersd@savannahredcross.org).

Golfing

There are free golf tickets to the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament for active duty military and their immediate families, (spouses, parents and children).

You can get a free one-day ticket each day of the tournament Apr. 18 - 24, at the Westin, Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, when you show your Military ID at the main admission gate.

Tickets are valued at \$60 (\$50 for ages 60+) and \$25 (\$30 at the gate) for an "any day" ticket.

For more information, visit [www.libertymutuallegends.pgatour.com](http://www.libertymutuallegends.pgatour.com).

Get ready for work

There will be a work prep program for Hunter Youth, ages 12 - 16.

Learn skills that will prepare you for the workforce. Attend the "Work Force Prep Program" Apr. 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 352-5708.

Teen Job Fair

If you're looking for summer employment, don't miss the job fair.

Representatives from fast-food restaurants and other business establishments will answer your questions Apr. 30, 10 a.m. to Noon. For more information, call 352-5708.

National Library Week

There are FREE Online Book Clubs. See the clubs available at — [www.stewartmwr.com/onlinebookclub.pdf](http://www.stewartmwr.com/onlinebookclub.pdf).

Join the Fort Stewart and HAAF Library Online Book Clubs and receive chapters from popular books in your daily e-mail. Get a portion of a book daily. When you've read 2 - 3 chapters, you get a new one. Choose from 11 different book clubs.

Sign up at the library or visit the enter <http://147.131.133:7001> in your browser tool bar.

Bowling and Golf

There is free bowling and shoe rental the last Saturday of every month at Hunter Lanes, 1 - 5 p.m., for soldiers and family members.

There are no golf green fees the last Thursday of every month at Hunter Golf Course. Golf Cart rental is \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 per person for 18 holes.

Soldiers Inn Dining Facility

All are welcome for breakfast, lunch and dinner served 7 days a week. The dining facility is open to Soldiers, civilians, guests and the general public.

Winn /Tuttle

Telephone Prefix Change

**The hospital telephone and fax number prefix will change Apr. 22 from 370 to 435.**

Troop and Family Clinic Open

The Troop and Family Care Medical Clinic is now open. Sick-call and other Soldier care usually provided at SFHC #3 will be provided here. For more information, call 370-5364.

Staying Healthy Classes

This class offers strategies for staying healthy. Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle. The next class at Tuttle is 10 to 11 a.m. April 28. To register, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

Laboratory Week Activities

In celebration of National Laboratory Week, get a look at what happens behind the scenes during the laboratory open house April 25 thru 27 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The open house will include tours of the laboratory, microscope viewings and games.

Diabetic Education Class

This two-day class discusses health and lifestyles for people with diabetes. Guest speakers include nutritionists, podiatrists, pharmacists, physical therapists and nurse practitioners. The next class is Apr. 26.

To register, call 370-5071.

Army Substance Abuse Program

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Army Substance Abuse Program offers individual and group counseling services for adults with alcohol or drug abuse prob-

lems. This program is offered to family members over the age of 18, active-duty Soldiers, retirees and Department of Defense employees. The Fort Stewart office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information, call 767-5265. The Hunter office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. For more information, call 352-5236.

School Health Screenings

A mass School Health Screening will be available for children 5 and older May 14 by appointment. The screening includes dental, immunization, eye and ear checks. All children entering the Georgia school system for the first time must be screened. To make an appointment, call 370-6633. Dental and immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis. Dental screenings are available 12:15 to 2 p.m. Monday thru Thursday at Dental Clinic #1 and Dental Clinic #3. Immunizations are available 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Eye and ear screenings are available by appointment through the EENT clinic.

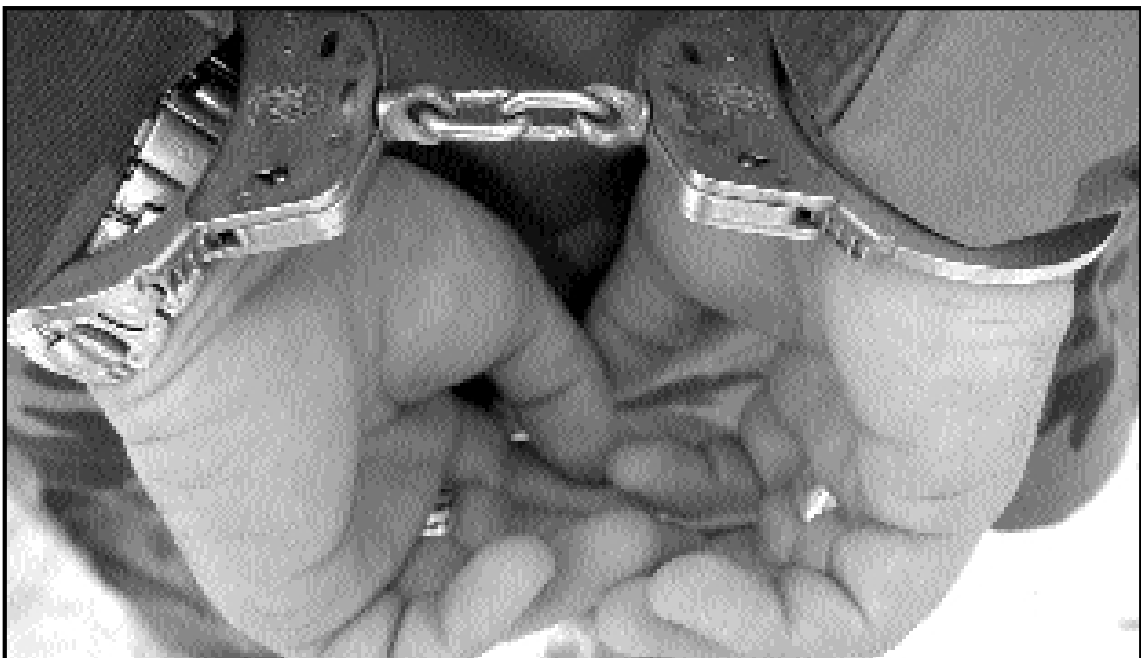
Ready to Quit Class

If you're interested in quitting tobacco use, walk-in to a one hour Ready to Quit class. You can register for the 4-week Tobacco Use Cessation program during this class or pick-up self-help materials to quit on your own. Ready to Quit is a prerequisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation program. The next class at Winn is 11 a.m. to noon April 27. The next Tuttle class is 11 a.m. April 27. For more information, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.



POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private,19-year-old male, seperate unit.
- **Charges:** Operation of a vehicle with no insurance, suspended registration.
- **Location:** Hunter.
- **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 29-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Simple battery.
- **Location:** Savannah.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd BDE.
- **Charges:** Unlawful speeding — 77/55, failure to wear safety belt.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 52-year-old male.
- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended, expired registration.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private , 19-year-old male, 3rd BDE.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence (underage), wrong way on a one way.
- **Location:** Savannah.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Unlawful speeding (78/55).
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.



- **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Unlawful speeding (72/40).
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Family member , 20-year-old female.
- **Charges:** Following too closely.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old female, AVN BDE.
- **Charge:** Simple battery, obstruction.
- **Location:** Savannah.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old female.
- **Charges:** Unlawful speeding (80/55).
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 2nd BDE
- **Charge:** Improper lane change.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old female, seperate unit.
- **Charge:** Failure to stop at posted stop sign.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, seperate unit.
- **Charge:** Failure to excercise due care
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, seperate unit.
- **Charge:** Failure to excercise due care
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 83-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Turning movements.
- **Location:** Hunter.

ASK THE JUDGE

TAKE – DIVORCE

<p><b>Ques.</b> — What Court in Georgia has jurisdiction over divorces?</p> <p><b>Ans.</b> — The Georgia Constitution provides that the Superior Courts of the state have “exclusive jurisdiction” in the granting of divorce.</p> <p><b>Ques.</b> — What are the requirements necessary for a Georgia Court to grant a divorce?</p> <p><b>Ans.</b> — Before a Superior Court may grant a divorce, three elements of jurisdiction must be established: (1) jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action, (2) jurisdiction over the parties to the action, and (3) the proper venue. Jurisdiction over the subject matter in divorce cases requires a valid marriage and residence (domicile) within the state for six months prior to the filing of the action (military personnel have a 12 month requirement). Jurisdiction over the parties to the action generally concerns acquiring jurisdiction over the defendant. The question of how and in what manner jurisdiction is acquired over the defendant are determined by the location of his residence, whether he can be found within the state or the existence of his property within</p>	<p>the state. Selection of the proper venue also depends on the residence (domicile) of the defendant. The requirement is that an action for divorce shall be brought in the county where the defendant resides if he or she is a resident of Georgia and if the defendant is not a resident of Georgia, the action must be brought in the County where the Plaintiff resides.</p> <p><b>Ques.</b> —What is “domicile” versus “residence”?</p> <p><b>Ans.</b> — Georgia courts have equated “residence” with “domicile” for the purpose of establishing the jurisdictional six-month residence and venue requirements. In order to establish a domicile, a person must actually reside at the location with the intention of remaining indefinitely and a domicile, once established, continues until a new domicile is acquired.</p> <p><b>Ques.</b> — What is the first step in a divorce action?</p> <p><b>Ans.</b> — The proceeding in a divorce action begins by the filing of a complaint or petition in the applicable court’s Clerks Office.</p>	<p><b>Ques.</b> — What is a default?</p> <p><b>Ans.</b> — Georgia Law requires defensive pleadings must be filed within 30 days of the date of service (complaint or petition). The failure of the defendant to file defensive pleadings within 30 days as required by the Civil Practice Act deprives the defendant of the right to all further notice as to the time and place of trial, but does not deprive him of the right to demand a jury trial nor to resist fully the claims of the plaintiff for the divorce. An evidentiary hearing for determination of the existence of the grounds for divorce is authorized, but not required. If no evidentiary hearing is held, the determination of such matters may be made upon verified pleadings of either party, one or more affidavits, or other such basis or procedure as the court may deem proper in its discretion.</p> <p><b>Ques.</b> — What is the purpose of a temporary hearing in a divorce?</p> <p><b>Ans.</b> — The primary concern of the trial court at the temporary hearing are to award temporary child support and temporary alimony, if applicable, and to award attorney fees to afford one spouse the means to contest the issues between the parties.</p>
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Medical

From Page 1A

“We are in need of a sophisticated program, one that will educate the Soldiers in all positions,” said Fuoud.

Battalions were tasked to send five medics to the training. After they receive and pass all requirements, they will go back and train their own Soldiers.

The education, until now, was primitive, said Fuoud.

“Each Soldier should know how to use a battlefield dressing, how to conduct personal hygiene in the field, and how to maintain medical operations in that type of environment,” he said.

Fuoud also said the subjects of the instruction needed to be wide-ranged, and the staff needed to be plentiful.

“The more medical personnel you have, the better,” he said.

He said Soldiers need to be prepared for anything, and learn the fundamentals of first aid.

In this program they are taught enough skills to effectively stabilize an injured Soldier for medical evacuation.

Master Sgt. Tony Williams with the 3rd Infantry Division

Surgeon office, said the Soldiers followed the ways of Saddam’s regime in the past, but now are learning more advanced ways to treat wounds and illnesses.

“There has been a vast improvement since this training began. Their skills have increased due to the training, and they are willing to soak up all the information that we can throw out to them,” said Williams.

The training consisted of classroom instruction, and was given by Williams and Fuoud, who also administered an oral exam.

After they passed, Williams gave a hands-on test, to see how well they performed under pressure.

The Soldiers were required to perform CPR on a mannequin, as well as apply field dressing to a bleeding wound.

All Soldiers passed with flying colors and received certificates of achievement.

They agree that the classes will be beneficial to Soldiers in future combat operation.

A brother and sister from Baghdad joined the Iraqi Army together, though it was not the intention at the beginning of the day.

They attended a recruiting drive and the brother was there only as a spectator to cheer on his sister, a second lieutenant. However, once he saw how the medical operations ran, he was hooked.

“I feel confident that if I had to use my medical training, I could perform my duties as an effective combat medic,” said the lieutenant.

Her brother said he is grateful for the additional training. “It has increased my skills of first aid and made life in combat easier.”

Fuoud said the training was one more step toward independence, and he felt that it will only get better.

“We’re making progress, and I think with time, it will grow. It’s slow right now, but the goal is to have medical support for the entire Iraqi Army,” he said.





Army Spc. Felife Hernandez, minesweeper, Company A, 367th Engineer Battalion, sweeps for landmines in a trench at a new engineer training area. He is using a Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System, which has metal-detecting capabilities and ground-penetrating radar.

# Soldiers use many tools for clearing explosive ordinance

Story and Photos by  
**Spc. Jason Krawczyk, USA**  
 American Forces Press Service

**BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan** — As the young engineer unzips his bag and removes his mine detector, he surveys the sandy, wind-swept hills he is about to clear. Before him sit bunkers, trenches and piles of junk -- all potential spots to hide mines or improvised explosive devices.

"Clearing minefields is a long, slow, time-consuming process, and there is no room for error," said Capt. Jonathan Zimmer, assistant officer in charge of the Mine Action Center. "We go by NATO standards, which means we have to use two types of methods to clear a minefield and must obtain 99.6 percent clear."

The soldiers of the 367th Engineer Battalion have multiple tools at their disposal to meet the requirements needed to consider a minefield clear, said Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Gallup, combat engineer team leader, 367th Company B. "Usually, we will go through a minefield first with an Aardvark medium flail. Once that is finished, we send in the engineers and dogs," he said.

The Aardvark is a mechanical flail with an armored cab capable of withstanding 7.62 mm armor-piercing rounds. "With that much armor it can definitely withstand a mine blast," Gallup said.

In addition to the mechanical devices, dogs from the 67th Demining Dog Detachment are used. The 67th is the only unit in the Army that has such dogs, Gallup said. They are trained to work closely with the engineers in finding mines.

A dog will narrow the possible location of a mine to about a square meter, and then the engineer uses his probe to locate the mine. If dogs are not available, an engineer may go in to the field with a Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System, which has metal-detecting capability and ground-penetrating radar.

Weather plays a major factor in clearing a minefield. It impacts everything from the dogs being able to pick up the scent of a mine to the machinery getting bogged down in mud. Summers in Afghanistan are ideal for mine clearing.

"Mine clearing is not all about going out to the field with a metal detector and an up-armored bulldozer," said Zimmer. "We must look through old logs and try to figure out what areas are already clear and what need the most attention."



Called an Aardvark this machine helps clear a suspected mine field in Afghanistan.